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SIDE LIGHTS ON CASTRO

Keen Foresight of the Venezuelan President.

STUDY OF STRATEGY HIS HOBBY.

Colonel Barceas, Consul for Venezuela at Philadelphia, says his Chief has shown much skill in Statesmanship and Commercialism. What He Has Done For His Country's Good.

Colonel J. I. Diaz Barceas, consul for Venezuela at Philadelphia, who has written an article on his country and its revolutions in the December Era, describes in an interesting manner the characteristic attributes of Cipriano Castro, the president of Venezuela, who is now a prominent figure in international questions. He says: The revolution led by Castro against the political and civil iniquity of Andrade's administration in 1898 was the blow of a patriotic, fearless man against a power that was draining the healthy interests of the republic. Straight from the Venezuelan frontier he fought his way, a thousand miles, to the capital at Caracas. Out went Andrade. In went Castro. It all happened in a single night. Around Valencia were scattered the rebel forces of Manuel Hernandez, who had been a candidate for the presidency. Hernandez, swearing vengeance on his successful opponent, excited the people to revolt by flamboyant speeches against Andrade, who, he said, was selected by fraud. Joaquin Crespo, who came into prominence during the rebellion in 1892, was sent against him with 2,000 men. Confident of victory, he met the rebel force of 500 men at Carmelitas. At the first wild fire Crespo fell forward on his face, killed by a bullet in his breast. Hundreds who had ridiculed Hernandez now applauded. His army increased fivefold. Crespo, as dictator, had a hold on the republic that worried the people. They rejoiced at his end. But Hernandez's military fame faded in a day when Ramon Guerra, Andrade's minister of war, crushed his rebellion in a single battle, captured him and put him in prison. Some of the routed forces joined Castro, and Andrade fled in dismay.

Assuming full power, Castro, with a quick, unmistakable, masterly grip on the tangled reins of government, began to reform the country's crippled system. One of his first acts was to release Hernandez from prison and elevate him to the department of progress and commerce. The portfolio was accepted with much apparent gratitude, and the new minister acquiesced in the government's policy. But he had a nagging ambition to become the country's chief executive. Suddenly he departed from Caracas, taking 1,500 of the men who had helped Castro to power. Experience, he felt, had added sufficiently to his skill to enable him to overwhelm his quondam chief with comparative ease.

General Castro smiled. Schooled in one of the country's military academies, he had made strategy his hobby. Hernandez fought hard for five months, dashing out from the hills and striking at Castro's forces, then dodging back where it was dangerous to follow him. But Castro planned better than Hernandez fought. The rebel was at last taken by surprise, captured and for the second time landed in prison. In statesmanship and commercialism Castro has shown much skill. Confidence, keen foresight and an iron self control are among his attributes. From this man Venezuela has turned its critical eye on General Matos, instigator and leader of the new rebellion. Matos has that dogged determination which impresses men. As minister of finance he had gained prestige. As a losing candidate for the presidency against Paul in 1890 he attained notoriety. He is a general by courtesy. His wealth is a general by appearance attracted sycophants without number and swayed the opinion of many mobs. He lacked the one thing he most desired, executive power. He resolved to get it, no matter how, and he made charges of fraud against the government in general. His knowledge of the financial system, he declared, enabled him to learn that officials were looting the treasury.

In Venezuela there is no other man so rich, so imperious or so aristocratic as Matos. The homage people paid to his wealth he took as a tribute to his personality. The chastening rod of criticism had never been openly administered to him. He became the reprobated boy. In Caracas his palace, the spoiled boy. In Caracas his palace, the spoiled boy. In Caracas his palace, the spoiled boy.

He owned real estate to the value of \$5,000,000, but he had little ready money, not nearly enough to carry on a revolution. He sat talking it over with some followers on the veranda one night.

"I'll get the cash," he exclaimed, jumping up, with his fists clinched. The words were repeated throughout the town, but the government was too anxious for a period of productive peace to pay serious attention to him.

One month later he was in France mortgaging his property. He bought and armed a 1,000 ton steamship, named it Liberator and loaded it with 2,000 newly purchased guns and ammunition. With this floating arsenal he boldly set out to arm his followers and lead them against Castro. Ill luck overtook him at Trinidad, where the ship's machinery collapsed. He was

not discouraged. Arranging for the transfer of the cargo to the state of Coro, on the west coast of Venezuela, he reached Vela de Coro, a small town on the coast, by night.

Five hundred men had been assembled outside of the town, under General Rivera, L. Mendon, A. Fernandez and other leaders of the discontented. The march to the city of Coro began. It was a mob in motley that tramped away. The greater part were Indians, half breeds and mulattoes. There were but few whites. The rattle of a drum, the tramp of feet, have a fascination for these people. Their ideas of rebellion are as romantic and as practical as a schoolboy's notion of Indian fighting. Grasping the handiest weapon—a club, a nicked machete or the awkward chopin—they rush from their labors and fall into line.

Brilliant in uniform, rigid and pompous, General Matos rode along, the ragged crew of rebels tagging at his heels. In wonder at first the peaceful whites stared. Then a laugh went up over the country. Its pestered echo followed him and would not die out.

It is a day's journey by steamboat around the peninsula to the city of Coro. It took Matos' army a week to walk. They would not be hurried, and they viewed the undertaking in the light of a picnic. Fruit was plentiful, and cattle were numerous. They stole the fruit, and in the name of the revolutionary leaders they demanded the cattle. None but foolish men refused, for those who denied the request usually lost more than was asked. Barbecues and rigadoons were common along the line of march. But their indolence could not be taken as an indication of their fighting capacity. Many were desperate, careless of life as they were of other people's property, and never contented under any administration.

Arriving in Coro with 4,000 men, Matos was dismayed. Castro had anticipated him. A fleet of eight men-of-war, under command of Calmanares, blockaded the port. Equipped with American guns, the vessels stood ready to blow the rebel army out of existence. United States gunboats were patrolling the coast. Word reached Matos that Castro, with an army of 8,000 men, was marching out of Caracas, equipped with Mausers and American fieldpieces. General Barria and Castro's brother, Cecilio Castro, were in command. Matos kept away from the coast line and betook himself to the adjoining state of Barcelona, where he instructed his followers in the use of the new weapons and in the manual of arms.

This revolt of Matos is typical of the way in which the majority of our revolutions have had their inception. In almost every case the results have been disastrous. Ruthless ambitions and political intrigues are the country's history. Jealousy and relentless enmity have played an important part in arresting its progress. Into the latest struggle Matos brought wealth, pride of ancestry and some experience. He staked them all—and his liberty and life as well—on the result. Castro brought his military training and experience, his personal power and the great influence of his position.

PRESIDENT HILL'S VIEWS.

"Too Much Speculation Now or Too Much Boom."

"The business of the country is undergoing a readjustment to meet changed conditions," says James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad. "The most alarming thing is the decrease in our exports. We are importing much more than we export. This is not due to a larger home consumption: it is because our articles cost too much."

"One people demand better things than do those of other countries, and our production has been overtaking the needs of the country too rapidly. The things we manufacture cost more than other nations will pay, and they buy elsewhere. Agricultural products, provisions and such things sell readily everywhere and are staple the world over. They are not affected by the production of articles of a cheaper kind to meet the demands of the export trade. I don't know what will be done. It is hoped that some adjustment will be made to meet the conditions."

"There is too much speculation now or too much boom. Just how it will come out I do not know."

The Reina Mercedes to Be Rebuilt.

Orders have been issued by the navy department for the fitting out of the former Spanish warship, the Reina Mercedes, as a training ship, says a Washington dispatch to the New York Tribune. The vessel is now at Portsmouth, and it is estimated that at least six months will be required to fit her out. In the war with Spain the Reina Mercedes was sunk at the entrance to the harbor of Santiago and under the walls of the Morro castle. She was sunk outside the Merrimac, but did not block the channel. After the surrender of the city she remained in the channel for several months and was finally raised and towed to this country. Owing to the loss of the Maria Theresa while on the way north she is the only remaining ship of the Spanish fleet at Santiago and possesses historic value. She is rated as a protected cruiser.

Quick Lunch For Londoners.

Three American quick lunch bars are shortly to be opened in London, according to the New York Herald. Already the appetites of business men and clerks in the neighborhood of the bank and the Strand have been excited by the announcement that thirty kinds of pie will be served daily, besides other articles of food, plain and fancy. The bars will be run without waiters, the customers helping themselves and paying for what they eat.



MRS. S. J. ATWOOD.

A Denver Woman Who Handles Laboring Men by the Carload.

Mrs. S. J. Atwood of Denver probably exceeds every other woman in the world in the magnitude of her special business. The vocation of this genial little woman is laughingly called by her "catching boobies," but is more generally known as an employment agency. Mrs. Atwood handles all the way from 40,000 to 100,000 men annually, according to the public demand for labor. She controls all the labor on the Oregon Short Line, besides all the boarding trains and outfits on the same road, and furnishes numerous large contracting firms and railroads with men.

In 1886 Mrs. Atwood had one small office in Denver, which was the nucleus



MRS. S. J. ATWOOD.

of her present extensive work, which has grown until it now includes her main office in Denver, with branch offices in Kansas City, Chicago, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Butte, Mont., and two in Omaha.

Her work extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific. She handles men not simply by carloads, but by trainloads. Imagine the unique feature of a woman having charge of a trainload of laboring men, who has them so thoroughly in hand that she never has any trouble with them! They never ask her unnecessary questions, but obey her orders implicitly and treat her with utmost respect.

Mrs. Atwood is assisted in her work by her daughter and says she is the only woman besides herself whom she has ever found who could take a trainload of laboring men from New York and land every one of them at his destination across the continent without having trouble in some manner on the way.

It is no uncommon sight in Denver, Chicago and numerous other places to see Mrs. Atwood at the head of a large following of laboring men leading them to a station for transportation.

She laughingly said, "It is no undertaking at all to handle men in the plural number, but in the singular he is absolutely formidable."

Mrs. Atwood has a large force of men at Pocatello, Ida., where the railroad is being built from Blackfoot to Mackay to open up the Thunder mountain mining district.

When, in 1886, Mrs. Atwood found herself entirely thrown upon her own resources, with a baby girl, an aged father and mother and a large amount of debts upon her hands, and absolutely nothing to begin on, not even experience in earning her daily bread, one would naturally think that she would have been despondent, and, being a woman, would have sat down and cried, or at least would have tried teaching or some other work which comes in "woman's sphere."

She, however, took up her husband's work where he had dropped it and has gone on to success. A load of debt and a baby girl to rear—not to send her out and give some one else the responsibility of bringing her up, but to give her parental love and care—is enough to daunt the courage of most any average man, yet this dauntless little woman has not only liquidated the debts and reared her own and adopted children, but has made her a cozy little home in Denver and has money on interest.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

To Make the Ankle Supple.

If you want your child to have supple ankles, have her sit down five minutes each day perfectly still. Take her foot, your left hand holding the ankle firm, and with the palm of your hand strike a few little blows on the bottom of her foot.

Then, holding the heel with your left hand, thus leaving the ankle free, take the tip of her foot and gently work the ankle, turning the foot around, first outside and then inside. During the time the child's muscles must not stiffen. If they are found to stiffen at first, after very gently exercising them in this way for some days the stiffness should entirely depart and leave the muscles so pliable that no reasonable amount of turning will affect them. Dancing is a very good exercise for making the child supple in all its muscles as well as those of the ankle, and what a little later will be found beneficial, provided it is indulged in moderately. Standing on one foot, holding the other off the ground and moving it up and down as far as it will go, is also a good exercise.

A Recipe For Happiness.

One of the youngest looking women we have ever known was one whose

principle in life was never to expect too much of people, and in this lay the great secret of happiness. A large amount of worry and trouble comes from our too great expectations of people. We expect too much of our children, for example. They must be gifted, beautiful, obedient little complaisants of all the virtues, and if they are not all this we think bitter things and sow wrinkles and gray hair and ill health for ourselves. What right have we to expect so much of our children? Blessed is the parent who looks tolerantly and philosophically on the faults of his children and who realizes that he has no right to expect too much of children as long as the law of heredity holds good. Unless we ourselves are gifted, beautiful and obedient to the will of somebody else we have no right to expect such perfections of our children.

Family Invitations.

It is a general rule that not more than three persons in the same household should accept an invitation. This rule may of course be broken when special circumstances seem to justify it. A daughter may accept an invitation to a house where her mother has never been asked, and members of a family should not feel hurt when some are invited and others left out. At the same time, in the case of weddings in church and for large general affairs a hostess should be careful to send invitations to all the members of a family which she knows well.

It is not polite to address the envelope inclosing an invitation "Mr. and Mrs. Brown and family."

There should be a separate invitation for the Misses Brown and another for the brothers in the household.

Shelf For Pet Books.

If you have already grumped your books according to your liking for them, it will be found pleasant to set apart a special shelf or a chosen part of your bookcase for your intimate book friends—the ones that you most respect, enjoy and are truly fond of. Then, when in the mood for converse with a favorite author, you can turn to this special group, sure of finding what you want, or, if you do not care to open the volumes, you can "read them by the backs"—that is to say, you can by a mere glance at the backs themselves conjure up, as if by a magic charm, the scenes, personages and often the very words that lie within.—St. Nicholas.

For the Home Seamstress.

To make a pretty and comfortable petticoat cut the skirt about a quarter of a yard shorter than walking length. Make it the same length all around. Sew this on the machine. Sew on the hem a plaited silk ruffle, cut on the straight of the material, about six inches deep. On the edge of the plaited ruffles sew a narrow bias ruffle about two inches deep.

Do not set the ruffles on the skirt proper, as the skirt is easier to walk in, wears better and rustles more if the ruffles are set on the bottom. Small plaits are prettier than large ones.

Dainty Sachet Bags.

Little sachet bags of silk may be hung unobtrusively upon the backs of chairs to supply a faint, elusive scent to the room, if that is liked. These should be filled with dried leaves of sweet geranium, lemon verbena and lavender mixed, or of lemon verbena alone, if that delightful odor is preferred.

They make sweet sachets for the handkerchief box or the linen closet or the bureau drawer.

A Woman Lumber Dealer.

A Californian, Mrs. Mary Coggin by name, has shown that a woman may win success in the business of lumber dealer. She is at the head of a box factory and attends to all the details of the business, although one of her sons holds the position of general manager. She is interested also in the management of two sawmills and several thousand acres of timber land.

To Waterproof Cloth.

Take of powdered alum and sugar of lead each half an ounce and stir them into a gallon of water, and when the mixture is clear pour off the upper liquid. Immerse the cloth in this for twenty-four hours, then drain and press it. The cloth will be uninjured in color and texture and will stand any amount of rain to which you are likely to be exposed.

Ribbon Roller.

A small sized rolling pin is a handy article on which to roll ribbons and thus help to preserve their freshness. Select a roller of good wood, carefully sandpaper and then varnish, so as to bring out the grain and color. Glid the ends and give an extra touch of ornamentation by tying bows of satin ribbon on the handles.

Cozy Corner Lamp.

A brilliant shade for a cozy corner lamp is made of light amber colored satin, fringed with small glass beads in the same shade. The fringe is deep, and the effect of the light shining through the yellow beads is wonderfully soft and effective.

Don't sleep with the mouth open. Dust and gritty particles floating in the atmosphere, entering the trap thus set for them, injure the enamel of the teeth by irritation.

Tea should be kept in either a tin or glass vessel which has a lid, as it is necessary to keep it tightly covered.

After preparing onions one should wash one's hands in cold water with a little salt, but no soap.

Never permit the sun to shine on a mirror. It ruins it for all time.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

A ginseng trust has been formed in Japan.

There are 9,900 boys in the British navy, including 6,200 under training. Millions of muskets have recently been washed ashore near Swansea, Wales.

In Berlin 833 public buildings are owned by the state and 497 by the municipality.

Bicycles are taxed in Vancouver, B. C., the municipal revenue from that source last year being \$557.

Penrith, Cumberland, England, is to be lighted by electricity, power being obtained from the river Eamont.

Wire screens are now placed in the tramway cars at New Orleans to separate negroes from white passengers.

While 3,500 coal cutting machines are used in United States mines, there are less than 400 such machines in British collieries.

Her puppy having died, a fox terrier at Twickenham is now contentedly acting as foster mother to a couple of young kittens.

Under light anaesthesia ammonia applied to a cat's nose will cause a cardio inhibition and a rise of blood pressure. In rabbits the effect is the same.

Bullets shot in military target practice nowadays are caught on an inclined surface made of sheet iron back of the target, are remelted and become bullets again.

In Worcestershire, England, 400 women are engaged making anchors, while 703 others make needles and 1,044 nails. Nearly all are married women or widows.

By order of the Japanese emperor wooden legs have just been distributed to the seven maimed survivors of the Aomori disaster, when 200 Japanese soldiers were frozen to death.

Reports from Manitoba show an immense increase in the production of wheat in that section. This must to a greater or lesser extent affect the production of this grain in the United States.

The decision of the directors of the theater at Halle, in Germany, to distinguish by means of red and white advertising posters between plays that are fit for young persons to witness and those that are not is causing some amusement.

As a model a Munich sculptor has hired a full grown lion from a menagerie. The animal eats twelve pounds of horseshed daily and drinks ten gallons of milk. The cost of its food and its keeper's pay is \$10 a day. The menagerie is to receive \$1,500 if the lion dies.

According to the statistical register of South Australia, Germany supplies considerably more than half of the foreigners who take out papers of naturalization. Out of a total of 3,763 the Germans numbered 2,604. China came next, with 284; then Scandinavia, 270, and Austria, 115.

An international agreement for the protection of birds that are useful to agriculture was signed at Paris this year by representatives of Belgium, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Austria-Hungary, Greece and the principalities of Monaco, Liechtenstein and Luxemburg.

The Kaiser has had a carriage built from his own designs for use for his correspondence on the field. It is drawn by six horses and is always near at hand. Writing material is stored in drawers, and by letting down a panel a convenient writing table is formed. It has a roof and canvas sides, permitting its use in all weathers.

A typewriter for the pocket is one of the latest bits of American ingenuity specially designed to meet the requirements of journalists and authors who need to take notes under conditions where a pencil and paper would not be convenient. It may be worked without removing the hands from the pocket. It is four inches long by three inches wide.

In a dispatch from Moscow the correspondent of the London Daily Mail says that a Dr. Koulatke has succeeded in his experiments in reanimating the heart of an infant which he had extracted from a child who had died twenty-four hours previously. The heart beat with normal regularity for one hour. Dr. Koulatke hopes that his discovery will assist in reanimation in cases of death by drowning.

It has been suggested that a memorial window be placed in Westminster abbey in honor of the late Duke of Westminster. Considerable indignation at this suggestion is being heard on the ground that such honor should be reserved for really great men. One critic says: "It was merely a good average duke of kind that we bred as easily as we breed good average grocers. It is intolerable that Westminster should be spelt to do him posthumous honor."

The bulk of the British press is made in London. A reliable estimate gives the weekly output by London makers as 500 to 600 tons, and this output is annually increasing. Taking the average net profit at \$20 per ton, the total profit amounts to about \$11,000 per week, or nearly \$600,000 per annum. This very safe estimate does include the profits accruing from fiction, candied peel, sauces, other comestibles manufactured nearly all English preserving fruit.

After working for thirty-two years William S. Hughes, a New Chinist, perfected a smoke device for locomotives and gas boilers. Hughes had back his invention, but having it brought to the notice of Vanderbilt. The chancery had the device patented and Hughes received a small pension. Hughes has decided to make a matter.